



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, said network element comprising a radio network controller, wherein connections are established between said ~~end~~ mobile station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released.

2. (original) A network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network element is arranged to release said connection when the determining means determines that the connection is to be released.

3. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said network element is arranged to release the connection between the network element and said mobile station.

4. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said network element is arranged to send a message to the end element indicating that said connection has been released.

5. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network element is arranged to send a request for the connection to be released to said mobile station.

6. (original) A network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein the end element sends a connection release command to said network element in response to the release request received by said network element, said network element controlling the release of said connection.

7. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said network element is arranged to send a release request to said mobile station in response to the release command received from said end element.

8. (original) A network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said network element is arranged to send a message to said end element advising that the connection has been released.

9. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

10. (original) A network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the type of traffic for which the connection is intended.

11. (original) A network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the quality of service profile of the traffic for which the connection is intended.

12. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station.

13. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station.

14. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 13, wherein the amount of updating information received in a given time from the mobile station is used as a measure of the movement of the mobile station.

15. (original) A network element as claimed in claim 14, wherein said updating information comprises URA updates.

16. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station.

17. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 16, wherein said determining means determines that the connection should be released if the mobile station is associated with a different network element.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 1, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) A network as claimed in claim 19, wherein said end element is SGSN.

22. (previously presented) A network as claimed in claim 19, wherein said network operates in accordance with the UMTS Standard.

23. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said network element is arranged to send a message to the end element indicating that said connection has been released.

24. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

25. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

26. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

27. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

28. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

29. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

30. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

31. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station.

32. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station.

33. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station.

34. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station.

35. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station.

36. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station.

37. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station.

38. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station.

39. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 10, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station.

40. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 11, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station.

41. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station.

42. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station.

43. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station.

44. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station.

45. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station.

46. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station.

47. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station.

48. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station.

49. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 10, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station.

50. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 11, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station.

51. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station.

52. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station.

53. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station.

54. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station.

55. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station

56. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station.

57. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said determining means is arranged determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station.

58. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station.

59. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 10, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station.

60. (previously presented) A network element as claimed in claim 11, wherein said determining means is arranged to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station.

61.-76. (canceled)



77. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 2, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

78. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 3, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

79. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 4, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

80. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 5, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

81. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 6, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

82. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 7, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

83. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 8, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

84. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 9, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

85. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 10, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

86. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 11, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

87. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 12, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

88. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 13, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

89. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 14, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

90. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 15, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

91. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 16, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

92. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 17, ~~an end~~ a mobile station and an end element.

93. (currently amended) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 18, ~~an~~ a mobile station and an end element.

94. (previously presented) A network as claimed in claim 20, wherein said end element is SGSN.

95. (previously presented) A network as claimed in claim 20, wherein said network operates in accordance with the UMTS Standard.

96. (previously presented) A network as claimed in claim 21, wherein said network operates in accordance with the UMTS Standard.

97. (new) The network element of claim 1, wherein said means for determining determines if the connection between said end element and said mobile station via said radio network controller is to be released based on at least one of a state of the mobile station, movement of the mobile station, or communications between the mobile station and the radio network controller.